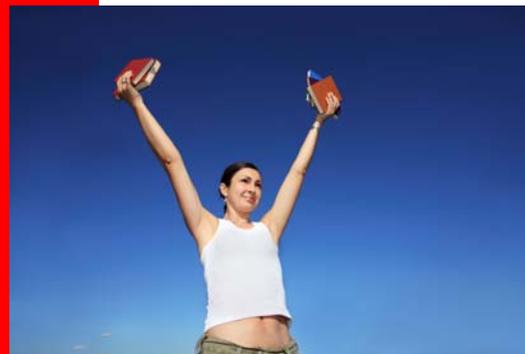


Saskatchewan Literacy Network
ANNUAL REPORT 2006-2007



Message from the President - Mark Williment

The Saskatchewan Literacy Network has been the voice of literacy in Saskatchewan for seventeen years, and has been the provincial umbrella organization for those in the literacy community. This last year, we have maintained this role under the most challenging circumstances. With the federal literacy cuts, the SLN board and staff has adjusted from growing as an organization to consolidating our priorities in supporting learners, resource development, communications and field development.

The SLN has been able to move forward through leadership. This has been best exemplified by our Executive Director, Debbie Griffith. Through tremendous adversity, Debbie has drawn upon her strengths of perseverance, organization, and communication to keep us going. Alongside Debbie, the SLN staff has demonstrated exceptional resolve and commitment throughout the year. Without their hard work, we would not have succeeded. The SLN Board has been most grateful for the efforts of all staff for maintaining our integrity as an organization.



The Saskatchewan Literacy Network promotes and supports literacy in Saskatchewan through

- **Learner Involvement**
- **Communication**
- **Field Development**
- **Resource Development**

With this being my final year as a Board member, I have taken time to reflect upon my involvement with the SLN over the last four years. I was drawn into the organization by my focus on literacy based school improvement. As a school based administrator, I was committed to parent engagement and the training opportunities offered by the SLN. By becoming a member and then being on the Board, I have deepened my understanding and commitment to literacy. I have formed many relationships with people in the literacy community and have been particularly moved by the experiences of learners. I wish the organization all the best as I continue on in my literacy focused journey.

Message from the Executive Director - Debbie Griffith

Several significant milestones marked the past year. Last fall, as the literacy community was gearing up with new programs and the promise of exciting initiatives, we received the news of federal funding cuts to literacy. Amidst the turmoil of those challenging times, several blessings began to unfold. The literacy community and other supporters of the cause rallied to express their concerns in a way that is unprecedented. The media provided unparalleled coverage for our cause. Literacy coalitions, nationally and provincially, explored new and innovative ways of providing supports and services. The need for literacy organizations, at every level, was affirmed and supported by their memberships. Literacy groups revisited missions, mandates and goals given the fiscal realities and other emerging trends. When the dust settled and federal funding began to flow again, new priorities and new approaches within our organization, as with many others, were already taking shape and form. These series of events, though not anticipated or appreciated, have led to the rebirth, refocusing and revitalization of a movement, which has been and continues to be centred on the needs of adult learners, their families and the communities in which they live.

| | | |
|--|--|---------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalized The Circle of Learning: Saskatchewan Adult Literacy Benchmarks Levels 1 and 2 and began province-wide implementation. In partnership with regional coalitions, coordinated 11 professional development opportunities attended by a total of 102 adult and family literacy practitioners. Supported the development of new initiatives by providing information, training and mentorship to Innovations Funding grant recipients upon request. Worked with three regional family literacy networks to develop a more coordinated approach to information sharing, training and networking. Engaged experts in the family literacy community in the development of a Family Literacy Tool Box of resources as a support for the field. This kit will be officially launched in 2008. In response to needs expressed by the field, initiated a process to revise and update our <i>Come Read With Me</i> training. | Field Development | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked with CanWest Global partners to distribute \$130,089.28 in Raise-a-Reader funding to 60 programs. In partnership with ABC Canada, coordinated the distribution of Family Literacy Day materials to over 50 programs. Distributed 590 new and 372 gently used children's books to 68 programs across the province. | Resource Development | |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "What Learners Want: A Summary of Focus Groups and Interviews with Adult Learners in Saskatchewan" was released nationally. An adult learner facilitated a discussion panel for the national Literacy and Health initiative. Produced a 13 minute long video called "Sharing our Stories". Three learners shared their experiences and advice for speaking to the media about literacy difficulties. | Learner Involvement |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Represented the field on a sector-based advisory committee to provide input on Saskatchewan Learning's 2008-09 Performance Plan. Completed seven new literacy information sheets. Began the development of an IALSS (International Adult Literacy and Skills Survey) Toolkit. Produced 2 podcasts: "What are the Saskatchewan Literacy Benchmarks?" and "IALSS in Saskatchewan". Distributed e-News monthly to more than 200 subscribers. Promoted and participated in International Literacy Day In response to the federal funding cuts to literacy, developed public awareness tools and met with Senators, federal and provincial Ministers and the media to raise collective concerns. Worked with the literacy community, and our provincial and federal counterparts, to make the case for a reinstatement of federal funding for literacy. Facilitated workshops at the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation Summer School, SCENES and Saskatchewan Library Association | Communication | |



Literacy and Learning for Life

Saskatchewan Literacy Network

202-626 Broadway Avenue
Saskatoon, SK S7N 1A9

306-651-7288
1-800-511-2111

www.sk.literacy.ca
saskliteracy@sasktel.net

FUNDERS AND DONATIONS

Human Resources & Social Development
Canada
Advanced Education and Employment
Saskatchewan Literacy Commission
United Way of Saskatoon and Area
Adult Learning Knowledge Centre
Raise a Reader
Norma Klassen
Scottish Rite
The Canadian Public Relations Society

VOLUNTEERS

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Michael Cichon | Don Kenney |
| Esther Gear | Devin Phipps |
| Jamie Ham | Sheena Summach |
| Cathy Hanselmann | Allan Woodhouse |
| Tim Jones | Helen Woodhouse |
| Tim | Ryan Woodhouse |

STAFF

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Debbie Griffith | Executive Director |
| Marilyn Stearns | Family Literacy Coordinator |
| Elaine Ebenal | Benchmarks Coordinator |
| Connie Jones | Adult Literacy Coordinator |
| Lisa Erickson | Communications Coordinator |
| Ollie Glemser | Finance Manager |
| Helen Woodhouse | Administrative Assistant |
| Katrina Ham | Learner Coordinator |
| Joanne LaBrash | Field Development Coordinator |
| Nancy Cooper | Field Development Coordinator |
| Sherry Neufeld | Administrative Assistant |